

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. A pool cover system, comprising:

a storage reel having a central mandrel that extends along a central axis;

a pool cover having an edge;

at least one rigid plate coupled to said edge of said pool cover;

a first set of mechanical fasteners disposed between said at least one rigid plate and said central mandrel that selectively interconnect said at least one rigid plate to said central mandrel in an orientation parallel to said central axis.

2. The system according to Claim 1, wherein said at least one rigid plate is selectively detachable from said pool cover.

3. The system according to Claim 1, wherein multiple rigid plates extend along said edge of said pool cover.

4. The system according to Claim 3, wherein a space exists between each of said multiple rigid plates along said edge of said pool cover.

5. The system according to Claim 4, further including a second set of mechanical fasteners for selectively interconnecting said edge of said pool cover to said at least one rigid plate.

6. The system according to Claim 5, wherein said first set of mechanical fasteners and said second set of mechanical fasteners are the same type of fastener.

7. The system according to Claim 6, wherein said first set of mechanical fasteners is selected from a group consisting of snap connectors, hook connectors, hook and loop fasteners, and clevis fasteners.

8. A method of improving the interconnection between a pool cover and a storage reel having a linear axis of rotation, said method comprising the steps of:

connecting at least one rigid plate along an edge of said pool cover; and

providing at least one connector on said storage reel that selectively engages and retains said at least one rigid plate in an orientation parallel to said axis of rotation.

9. The method according to Claim 8, wherein said step of connecting at least one rigid plate includes connecting multiple rigid plates in a linear alignment along said edge of said pool cover.

10. The method according to Claim 9, further including the step of leaving an open space between adjacent rigid plates along said linear alignment.

11. The method according to Claim 8, wherein said step of connecting at least one rigid plate along an edge of said pool cover includes selectively attaching said at least one rigid plate to the edge of the pool cover with detachable mechanical fasteners.

12. The method according to Claim 8, wherein said step of providing at least one connector on said

storage reel includes mounting mechanical connectors to the storage reel.

13. A system for retroactively altering a pool cover and a pool cover storage reel to improve the ability of the pool cover to be evenly wound about the storage reel, said system including:

at least one rigid plate;

a first set of fasteners for selectively attaching said at least one rigid plate to an edge of said pool cover; and

a second set of fasteners for selectively attaching said at least one rigid plate to said storage reel.

14. The system according to Claim 13, wherein multiple rigid plates are provided.

15. The system according to Claim 14, wherein said first set of fasteners are selected from a group consisting of snap connectors, hook connectors, and hoop and loop connectors.